

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,338,540 to Hasegawa et al (hereinafter, Hasegawa '540). Claims 1-4, 8-9, and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being non-obvious over Hasegawa '540 in view of USPN 5,610,635 to Murray et al. (hereinafter, Murray '635). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being non-obvious over Hasegawa '540 in view of Murray '635 and USPN 6,049,562 to Dekker (hereinafter Dekker '562).

Claims 1, 5, 7-8, and 11-12 are amended herewith without the introduction of new matter. Reconsideration of pending claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa '540. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

As presently amended, claim 1 recites the feature:

“selecting a print head servicing routine from the plurality of different print head servicing routines, the print head servicing routine selected being dependent upon the time difference between the first time information and the second time information.”

This feature is illustrated in Fig. 1, and discussed in the specification text corresponding thereto.

The above-recited feature is neither shown nor suggested in Hasegawa '540. Hasegawa is directed to a technique for reducing overall print time, whereby only one print head recovery process (servicing routine) is either executed or not, the execution being depending upon the time period between successive print operations. More specifically, Hasegawa '540 does not teach the use of a plurality of different print head servicing routines, or a process by which one of said plurality of servicing routines would be selected.

Accordingly, as the aforementioned feature of claim 1 is not shown in Hasegawa '540, claim 1 is novel thereover. Claims 3 and 4 are dependent from claim 1, and accordingly are novel over Hasegawa '540 for at least the same reasons.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 8-9, and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being non-obvious over Hasegawa '540 in view of Murray '635. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-4

As explained above, claim 1 includes a feature not shown in Hasegawa '540 whereby one of a plurality of print head servicing routines is selected, the servicing routine being selected based upon the time between successive print operations. Murray '635 does not show or suggest this feature, as Murray '635 is directed to the implementation of a printer ink cartridge in which a memory storage element is housed. In particular, Murray '635 does not mention a plurality of different print head servicing routines, nor how one servicing routine would be selected from among such a plurality.

Accordingly, as the aforementioned feature of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested, either individually or collectively, in Hasegawa '540 or Murray '635, a prima facie case of obviousness is lacking and claim 1 is accordingly patentable thereover. Claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1, and accordingly are patentable over Hasegawa '540 in view of Murray '635 for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8, 11 and 12

Applicant's independent claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended to recite the aforementioned feature in corresponding apparatus and computer element and product forms. Specifically, claim 8 recites:

“a selecting unit coupled to both the time difference determination unit and the second memory unit, which selecting unit selects a particular print head servicing routine from a plurality of different print head servicing routines, wherein the print head servicing routine selected is dependent upon the time difference between the stored time information and the time information of the current print job;”

Claims 10 and 11 recite:

“selecting a print head servicing routine from a plurality of different print head servicing routines, the print head servicing routine selected being dependent upon the time difference between the first time information and the second time information”

Accordingly, as claims 8, 11, and 12 recite the aforementioned feature of selecting one print head servicing routine from among a plurality of different servicing routines based upon the time difference between two print operations, and as Hasegawa '540 and Murray '635, either individually or collective, do not show or suggest said feature, claims 8, 11 and 12 are patentable over Hasegawa '540 in view of Murray '635. As remaining claim 9 is dependent from claim 8, it is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being non-obvious over Hasegawa '540 in view of Murray '635 and Dekker '562. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

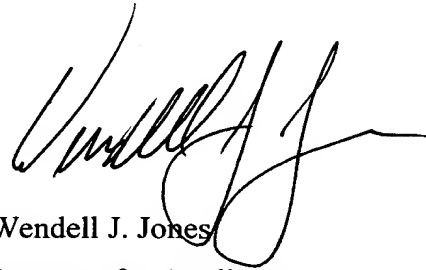
As established above, the cited references of Hasegawa '540 and Murray '635, neither separately nor collectively, show or suggest the recited apparatus of process for selecting a print head servicing routine from a plurality of such routines, the servicing routine selected being dependent upon the time between two print operations. Dekker '562 does not make up for this deficiency, as Dekker '562 is directed to a particular frequency hopping receiver architecture unrelated to the present invention. Accordingly, as the cited references of Hasegawa '540, Murray '635 and Dekker '562 separately or together fail to show or suggest the aforementioned feature, a prima facie case of obviousness is not established thereby, and claim 10 is allowable thereover.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and Claims 1-12 should be found to be in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendell J. Jones', with a stylized, flowing script.

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